Revolutionary Student Brigade
National Newspaper

FIGHT BACK!

Vol. 3, No. 6 15¢ April 15, 1976

DEMONSTRATE IN PHILLY!

We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years Let's Get Them Off Our Backs!

1976--Millions walking the streets looking for jobs while those still on the job are made to slave even harder. Whole cities on the verge of bankruptcy and falling apart. Half-finished construction sites standing next to burned out tenements. Politicians demanding that we give up more of the little we have. Students having to pay more for education and in some places being forced by the thousands to leave school and join the lines of the unemployed.

1976--War drums beating louder. Angola marking another step on the road to worldwide military showdown while military recruiters flock to unemployment centers and campuses like vultures preying on our lack of jobs and uncertain futures.

Amidst lies of recovery and the fireworks of the bicentennial celebration one thousand outrages stare us in the face. We ask ourselves

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10,000 March in Albany

NY Campuses Rocked

10,000 students marched on the state capitol of Albany, New York on March 16, braving a 20-inch snowstorm, to demonstrate their anger against cutbacks in the State University (SUNY) and City University (CUNY) of New York systems. Fed up with months of heavier and heavier cuts covered by false promises and secret plans, over 2,000 of the students stormed the doors of the Statehouse, rolling over cops and student government marshalls, and rallied *inside* the building.

This militant action, led by the CUNY Fight Back contingent (which was organized by the Revolutionary Student Brigade) was the high point in a series of actions that have rocked New York State campuses in the past few weeks. More and more students are learning, through the struggle against cutbacks, who's responsible for the attacks coming down on people and how to fight them--and win.

Students in New York State for the past year have witnessed the near collapse of New York City, an area which involves 20 million people. They have seen the economic crisis hit sharply, have been forced to stand by with millions of other New Yorkers while Washington, Albany and municipal governments haggle over how many firehouses and hospitals should be closed and how many thousand government workers should be fired.

Each "plan" to save the city and the state only leads to greater cutbacks with no end in sight. This has been true for higher education, with each month a new "plan" or proposal coming out for cutting back or raising fees. But every proposal has the same goal--to make the people give up more to help out the bankers and businessmen looking for more profit.

This is the background for the fight being built on the SUNY and CUNY campuses. In SUNY the state is trying to raise tuition $100 and increase dorm fees by another $100. In New York City, the Kibbee plan which

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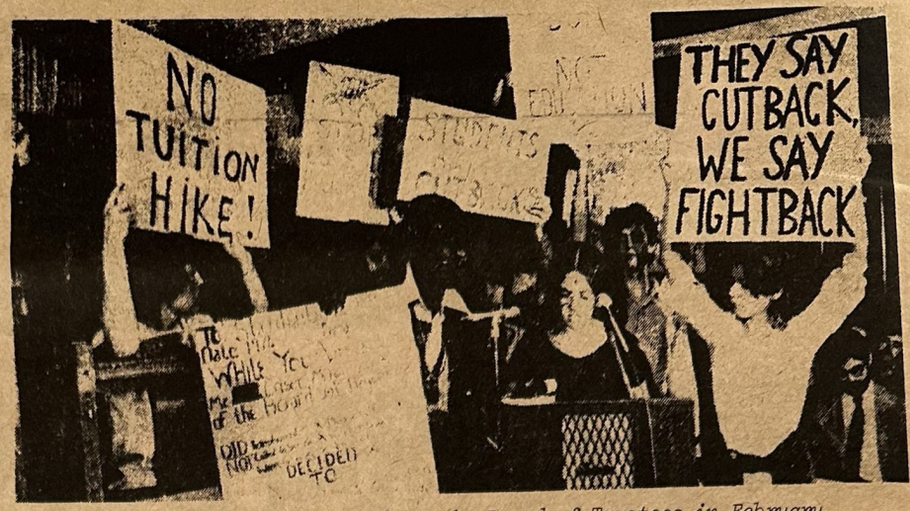
RSB Southern Meeting Held



Tampa, Florida students took on the Board of Trustees in February.

On March 27 the first Southern Regional Conference of the RSB was held in Atlanta. Thirty people from four states attended to discuss building the revolutionary student movement in the South and expanding the RSB in that area. The conference was an important step for the Brigade in this area, the first time people had gotten together to exchange experiences and plan out common work for the future. For many of the people there, who have just recently joined the Brigade, it was the first time they had come together with other revolutionaries in a conference of this sort.

Tally Rally April 22

Students in the South have been increasingly involved in struggle over the past year. One important issue that the Brigade has done organizing around is the fight against cutbacks and other attacks on education. In one of these struggles, over 500 students demonstrated February 11 at Georgia State University in downtown Atlanta against a 2% tuition hike and a several million dollar budget cut.

In Florida, the RSB, working with Students Against Cutbacks (a mass committee the RSB initiated), is building for a statewide rally in Tallahasee April 22. Students in Florida's state university system have been organizing and building the fight against a planned tuition hike.

In the meeting, people put the blame for these attacks on education right on the rich that run this country, and talked of the need to bring out to other students the nature of the capitalist class so that we can best organize our strength and build unity against them. All the injustices and abuses students see in society and their experiences in struggles like the cutbacks fight give them a real basis to see the need to get rid of the capitalist system.

Building the RSB

The July 4th demonstration in Philadelphia was another important discussion. A member of the Revolutionary Communist Party spoke on the great potential the demonstration has for bringing together large numbers of people from many different struggles, the potential for bringing many new people into the revolutionary movement, and how the demo itself would be a strong blow against the ruling class.

People talked about plans for building the demonstration on their campuses. Since the meeting, plans have also been made to spread the word to other campuses in the South. Summing up that the slogan "We've Carried the Rich for 200 years, Let's Get Them Off Our Backs" really speaks to the feelings of many students, the Brigade plans to go to new campuses and organize to bring students from the South to Philadelphia on July 4th.

In the context of these struggles, the meeting discussed the necessity and importance of building the Brigade on many new campuses in the South and strengthening it where it already exists. Throughout the South there are many large campuses with thousands of students where no revolutionary organization has existed for years. But the nature of this system is that it is always creating more enemies, people who learn to hate what capitalism means not only for them, but because of all the oppression they can see it create around them. People have fundamental questions about the system we live under and what the alternatives are. Many already see that capitalism offers no real future for the majority of people, and are interested in socialism and the practice of it in countries like the Peoples' Republic of China.

One job the Brigade in the South has set for itself is to go onto new campuses, uniting with struggles that are going on, and bring out the need for organization to the many people who are coming to see the need for revolution. At the same time the RSB is taking the word of the July 4 demonstration to new places, it will be putting out the need for permanent organization among students, organization that can lead the struggles on campus as well as speak to students' questions about revolution and socialism.

People left the meeting with a lot of enthusiasm about the July 4th demonstration and about building new Brigade chapters. Most of the RSB chapters in the South have been formed only in the past few months and it's clear that the potential exists for building more. Already since the meeting contacts have been made with people on several new campuses who are helping build for the July 4th demo and have expressed a lot of interest in the Brigade.

For more information about building for the demonstration July 4th on your campus, or for information about the RSB, contact the National Office at the address listed below.

THE RSB

Fight Back is the newspaper of the Revolutionary Student Brigade, a national communist student organization, the student group of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA. Our goal is to build a revolutionary movement among students and young people, one that will unite thousands in the struggle to bring down this rotten system of capitalism and, joining with the majority of the people in this country, replace it with a new society--socialism, the rule of the working class.

The RSB is dedicated to fighting every attack the capitalists bring down on the people, all the time pointing out that our final goal has to be doing away with the source of these attacks.

WHO CAN JOIN THE RSB?

The RSB is made up of students of all nationalities on over 50 campuses across the country. It is open to any student who wants to fight the capitalist system and agrees with the basic politics of the Brigade. As college students we have a lot in common with other young people, in the high schools and in the communities. Together we find ourselves looking at an increasingly bleak future. By linking up with the growing movement and organization among young people, in the near future we aim to build a national communist youth organization.

The capitalist system is in crisis; we can see the results all around us, unemployment, cutbacks, the threat of world war. But this system will never topple of its own weight--it's up to us to bring it down. Help build a movement that is working to do just that. Join the RSB.

For More Information Contact RSB National Office, P.O. Box A3423, Chicago, Ill. 60690

BOARD VOTES 175% INCREASE

Chicago Students Fight Hike

400 march to Chicago Civic Center April 13 in tuition hike fight.

On April 7, 35 students, led by the RSB, went to a monthly meeting of the Chicago City College Board. They came to protest a vote on what they thought was going to be a 50% tuition hike for the seven city colleges. The Board members weren't too happy to see them, because the hike they were voting on wasn't 50%--it *was 175%! They tried to slip the* vote past without anyone hearing what they were voting on. But when people saw them taking a vote, they demanded "What the hell is going on? What's this vote about?" Finally the Board admitted that they had just raised tuition from $4 to $11 a credit hour. As they saw how angry people were getting, the Board all of a sudden decided that it didn't have anything else to talk about and they took off! But the students had plenty to talk about, and they sat right down and started planning how to fight this hike.

It didn't take long for news of the hike to spread. The next day the Board was meeting at Southwest College and the student government, which has played a good role in building this struggle, called a rally. 80 people grew to 250 as student government and the RSB led a march across the campus to confront the Chancellor of the Board, Oscar Shabat. People in the demonstration called on their friends and classmates to join in the fight and as they got to Shabat and the cops who were with him, they took up the chant "We won't take the losses for Shabat and his bosses."

Shabat's response to all this was to say that the hike didn't really hurt anyone because they could always fill out some forms and get financial aid. But students told him to get lost. People have stood in long lines and filled out dozens of long forms--and got no aid at all. You can't go to school on promises. Even at the $4 fee most students have had to work at low-paying jobs, many full-time, to get the tuition money together. One woman put it straight when she shouted out at Shabat, "When I get out of here at night all I can do is punch cash registers and scrub floors, and now you think I'm going to pay $11 a credit--NO WAY!

This tuition hike is only a part of what's come down over the past two years. Until 1974, when they began charging the $4/credit hour tuition, there was not tuition at all. In the past semester Illinois scholarship funding was cut 6%, Basic Educational Opportunity Grants (BEOG) were slashed 30% for the next year and summer school classes were cut in half. At the beginning of the year, the teachers went on strike for three weeks when the Board tried to cut their wages and lay off ten percent of the faculty.

With the latest hike, a lot of students have taken up the fight. After the hike was passed, 350 students got together at Southwest, and another 200 at Wright Junior College, to make plans for building the fight.

At Kennedy King, where there had been no previous organizing against the cuts and threatened hike, the Brigade called a meeting on short notice. The 100 people who came soon swelled to over 150 as they marched through a building. Off of this, several students took up the task of organizing the fight and began building for a city-wide rally called for April 13.

At these meetings, a lot of questions have come out about how to best organize the struggle. A few people in student government at one school have been trying to reduce the struggle to a big letter writing campaign. A few others are offering themselves as "negotiators" with the Board--to try and figure out a "compromise" tuition hike. But most students aren't interested in a "compromise" increase--the demand is NO tuition hike. And a lot of them never saw any point to the letter campaign; the Board isn't raising tuition because of some misunderstanding, but because they are consciously trying to get rid of students. The main question at these meetings was how to spread the fight to all the schools and mobilize as many people as possible for the April 13 demo.

Students Organize City-wide

On April 13, 400 students rallied at the City College Board and from there marched to confront City Hall with a picket line at the Civic Center. When Shabat said he would only talk to five students, the rally chanted "All of us or none!" After the rally, the RSB led a mass meeting on the spot to plan further actions.

Throughout this fight the RSB is *also talking to students about the demonstration July 4 in Philly and how it will bring together struggles* like this from all over the country. People are real interested because in this fight a lot of them have seen that we *can* organize our strength to fight the rich.

Plans have been set for another city-wide demo Wednesday April 21, and students agree the main task now is to go back to the campuses, organize the fight on new campuses--and mobilize hundreds more students for the 21st. Students at the different schools are also planning actions on their campuses. There's talk of walkouts, rallies and maybe a strike.

There's a lot of excitement over the growing unity. As one woman at Wright put it, "We've got to fight--or our children won't have any kind of future at all."

Mass Actions in West Bank, Galilee

Protests Hit Zionist Rule

Palestinians on West Bank build bonfires to protest Israeli occupation.

Excerpted from REVOLUTION, organ of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

The Zionist overlords of Israel will be reeling for a long time to come from the one-two punch they received in the past two months. A massive wave of demonstrations against Israeli occupation swept the West Bank area. This then triggered a week of militant protests by Palestinian Arabs who are "citizens" of Israel in the Galilee area. This upsurge of struggle set fire to the *elaborate papier-mache myths the Israeli ruling class* has spent 29 years building up about equality and how "Our Arabs are happy Arabs." To further deepen the gloom of Israel's rulers, the demonstrations considerably upset the American ruling class, without whose massive aid their government would be bankrupt and militarily crippled, as even Israeli government officials admit.

The West Bank of the Jordan was seized by Israel in the 1967 "Six-Day" War, and even before had been a hotbed of militant struggle against Israel. Many of the million Palestinians who live there are refugees. In 1947 and '48 when the state of Israel was set up by force and terror, close to 90% of the Palestinians who had lived there were driven from their homes. The United States government sponsored the creation of Israel, a religious settler state, a capitalist state, to serve as a loyal and easily controlled beachhead for American capital in the strategic, oil-rich Mideast. Many of the Palestinians fled to the West Bank, a part of Palestine then under the rule of Jordan, and, like Lebanon and the Gaza strip, the West Bank became a center of the struggle to liberate all of Palestine.

Since 1967, it has been clear that the Israeli capitalists and their politicians intend to expand their country by repeating the 1947-48 land grab in this occupied territory. Israel formally annexed the Old City section of Jerusalem and began bulldozing Arab families out to build highrise apartment buildings. Land was seized elsewhere on the West Bank for military outposts and farms. Thousands of West Bank residents found the only way they could eke out a living was as workers in Israeli-owned and run industry, agriculture, or construction. They receive as little as one quarter of Israel's minimum wage and are forbidden to join unions. Recently, Zionist land seizures, including some formally disapproved--but not stopped--by the Israeli government, have been stepped up.

Massive Protests

What triggered the big wave of demonstrations and strikes in the West Bank was a decision by an Israeli magistrate that Jews could worship on the Temple Mount, where Solomon's temple supposedly stood thousands of years ago but which is now the site of a mosque considered important by those of Moslem faith. In protest, Arab religious students paraded through the streets in early March. Almost instantly the character of the demonstration changed from a religious issue to a broader massive protest against the crimes of the Israeli occupation and the existence of Israel itself. Students from schools and colleges, men and women in cities all over the West Bank took to the streets in the thousands, many chanting "Liberate Palestine."

By March 10 even conservative mayors of several villages resigned their positions in solidarity with the demonstrations. Israeli occupation troops declared 24 hour curfews in two towns, Ramallah and El Birah, by firing machine guns into the air. Only after three days were people permitted out of their houses--for 90 minutes to shop for food! Dozens of suspected leaders disappeared into Israeli jails.

Nevertheless, the demonstrations continued and grew. People took on the Israeli army with rocks, bottles and sticks when attacked. On March 17 a general strike was declared in Old Jerusalem, and many others joined the workers in staying home. Schools were closed and small merchants shut down their shops. A ten-year-old boy was machine-gunned down by a soldier in Jericho. In late March, when the daily protests were beginning to wane on the West Bank, two other Palestinians were beaten to death by soldiers.

For the Israeli capitalist class, this was a giant wrench in the cogs of their expansion plans. Their original attempts to shrug off the protests as Moslem religious fanaticism fell flat as Bethlehem and other Christian Palestinian towns erupted. Before the outbreaks the Israeli government had slated local elections in 24 West Bank towns and villages to legitimize their occupation. While these elections may still be held, the "legitimacy" they were supposed to confer has been left in tatters by the masses. And the spark of struggle had already spread to Galilee.

"Citizens" Stand Up

Israeli plans to annex Jersalem and other West Bank areas had inclu-

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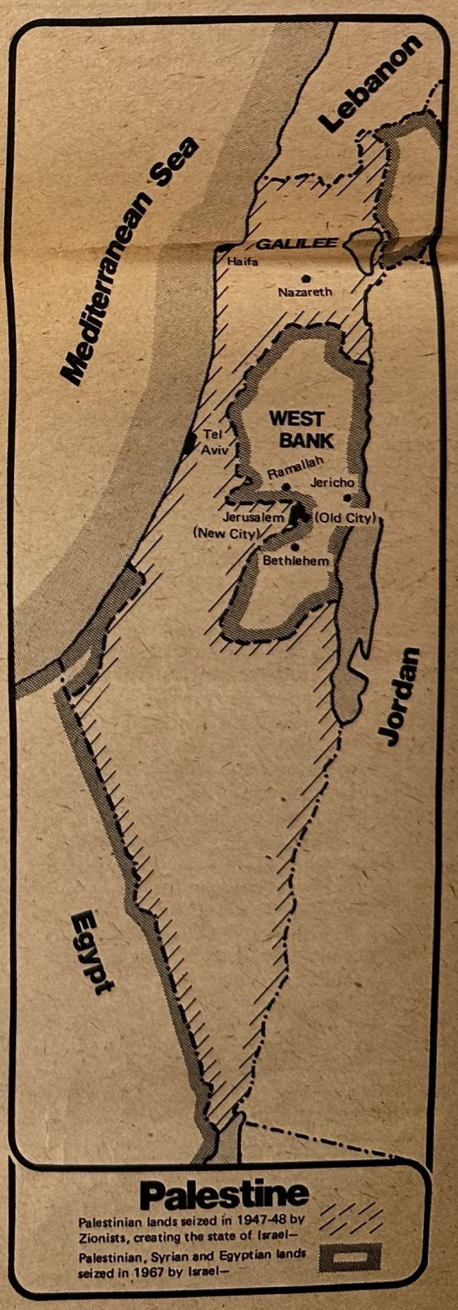


200 Protest

Police Spying Exposed At Boston State

Over 200 students took over Boston State Board of Trustees meeting for five hours demanding an end to campus police spying on students and faculty.

Recent exposures of police spying on students and faculty at Boston State college have sparked off a lot of anger on the campus. The disclosures include spying and keeping files on students and faculty activists, breaking into offices, photographing demonstrations and passing information to the local police and the FBI.

Campus police captain Sal Balestrieri, who carries a .357 magnum pistol loaded with hollow point bullets (a combination that could blow a six-inch hole in someone) tried to pass all this off as a bunch of "Mickey Mouse" investigations that didn't hurt anyone. Meanwhile his boss, William Morrisey, and the college president, Kermit Morrisey (no relation), flat-out denied that anything like this had ever happened at BSC.

How could anything like this happen in what is called an island of academic freedom run by an "objective" and "non-political" administration? Campus cops are supposedly there to protect students and give out parking tickets.

The administration brought cops on the campus in July 1970, less than two months after nationwide student strikes, including one at BSC, protesting the invasion of Cambodia and the murder of students at Kent and Jackson State by National Guardsmen. At the time students not only protested the cops coming on campus but also the fact that they had guns.

At that time, as a direct result of the massive student strikes of the late 60s and early 70s, cops were either brought on campus at many schools or the ones who were there were armed. In every case, school administrators vowed there was nothing "political" involved and played on students' fears of crime to win support for the cops.

Now the dirt that's come out at Boston State proves what many students were saying all along. Over the past six years, Balestrieri and Co., working for the Administration, have among other things kept files on hundreds of students, tailed campus activists and broken into the school newspaper office.

In the case of one professor, reported in the school newspaper, the campus cops broke into his office over ten times to steal papers and followed him when he left campus, in order to dig up evidence the administration could use to fire him. In the past year, the cops have investigated individuals and groups like the RSB who are involved in protesting statewide budget cuts.

Angry over these recent exposures over 200 students and faculty took over a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the state school system for five hours. They demanded an end to the surveillance, and the firing of the three people directly tied to the spying, Balestrieri and the two Morriseys. They also linked up the struggle against the spying with the current struggle against cutbacks and tuition hikes. All the Board could answer was that they would set up their own "investigation committee."

Students at BSC know this is like leaving a rat to guard the cheese. The school administration, taking a tip from the "Big Boys" in government, are involved in a big cover-up. They're being helped by the District Attorney whose first action when informed of the spying was to call the school and advise them to burn any evidence.

All of this has only added to the outrage of students, as the links between the cops, the administration and the government stand out. These exposures are helping to break down the already crumbling myths about the University as an "objective," "impartial," and "independent" institution. They, along with the budget cuts, tuition hikes and other attacks being used to drive students out of school, expose the university's true colors as a servant of the capitalist system rather than of students.

"We've Had Enough"

U. of Maryland Students Defend Food Co-op

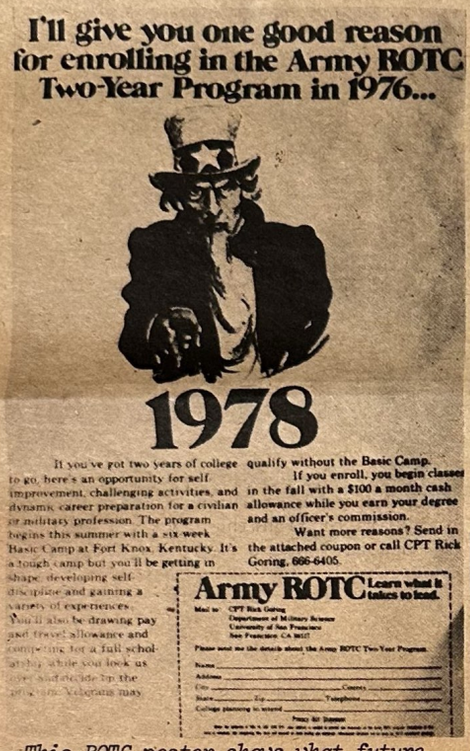
There comes a point where you just won't take any more. That was the feeling among students at the University of Maryland the first week of April as they fought to defend a non-profit food co-op run by students.

The school administration had refused to renew the co-op's lease, clearly trying to stop competition with the school food service. While not a life and death issue, students saw no reason why the co-op, which provides a service to many, should not be allowed to continue. What's more, they saw that this was something they could fight and win.

350 rallied April 7 demanding "Sign the Lease!" Marching to the administration building, they fought to get in, breaking open a door and fighting campus cops. When one student was picked off for arrest, the demonstration demanded and forced his release with no charges. The following Sunday, fearful of plans for another demo, the administration agreed to sign.

Every day we see a hundred injustices and though we can't fight every one of them, sooner or later it's time to draw the line and say "We've had enough!" The victory at University of Maryland, though small, shows what can happen when people organize to resist attacks.

Come to Philadelphia July 1-4!


I'll give you one good reason for enrolling in the Army ROTC Two-Year Program in 1976...
1978
If you've got two years of college to go, here's an opportunity for self-improvement, challenging activities, and dynamic career preparation for a civilian or military profession. The program begins this summer with a six-week Basic Camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky. It's a tough camp but you'll be getting in shape, developing self-discipline and gaining a variety of experiences. You'll also be drawing pay and travel allowance and competing for a full scholarship while you look us over. And decide if the program is for you. Veterans may qualify without the Basic Camp.
If you enroll, you begin classes in the fall with a $100 a month cash allowance while you earn your degree and an officer's commission.
Want more reasons? Send in the attached coupon or call CPT Rick Goring, 666-6405.
Army ROTC Learn what it takes to lead.

This ROTC poster shows what future this system offers young people. According to them, 1978 will be no better than 1976. In Philadelphia July 4 we will be saying No! to 200 more years of this system.

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what kind of future does this system hold for us. More of the same for the rest of our lives and the lives of our children? We say No Way!

The working people, men and women of all nationalities, have built everything in this country. But the rich, the capitalist class, takes it all. They own what they have never built, the mines, the factories, the fields. Owning all, they control all, including the government, and use it to get even more profit and power and the most extravagant wasteful living they can dream up. Yet for millions, there are only crumbs to put an illusive silver lining in the dark clouds of their rule.

They make us promises about the future, all the while they're turning our society into a hellhole. We want to work together to build our common future. Their nature is to steal as much as they can and keep us divided, black against white, men against women.

Their uncontrollable drive for profit makes this whole society run like it does. Crisis after crisis, war after war, injustice upon injustice. Our whole history proves this. The people have fought for all that is worthwhile in this country. We are not the fools they would take us to be, not in 1776, 1876 or 1976. Our history is filled with storms of resistance, battling back and standing tall against a handful of murderers and slavedrivers who are rotting even as they claw for more.

1976--these thieves call on all of us to celebrate with them. National unity, all together and many happy returns. No! We will not celebrate their rule. For them--200 years of plunder. For us--200 years of oppression.

We will be marching in Philadelphia on July 4th outside the very halls of their celebration. Thousands strong, we will drown out their chorus of capitalism with our angry and determined demands. Our slogan--"We've carried the rich for 200 years, let's get them off our backs!"

In building this struggle we will point especially to two clear examples of the destructiveness of the rule of the rich. We will be demanding Jobs or Income and saying that We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War!

Fellow students! We need to organize both as students and as part of the American people. We're facing attack after attack on the campuses, in the communities and soon they'll be driving us onto the battlefields. We must join with the millions of people who make up the majority and link our struggles as they've never been linked before into one growing movement to get the rich off our backs.

Now is the time to pull it all together. Workers, students, veterans, unemployed. All our forces, all our battles. We will come together thousands strong to expose their crimes and build our movement on the 4th and for the great battles ahead.

ON TO PHILADELPHIA!

Scotia, Kentucky

Miners' Blood on Bosses' Hands

"There is never a mine blown
skyward now,
But we're buried alive for you..."

This line from the poem and song "We Have Fed You All For A Thousand Years" has once again been proved as true today as it was when it was written at the turn of the century. On March 9, a methane gas explosion ripped the Scotia mine in eastern Kentucky, killing 15 miners. The blast killed several outright. The others suffocated slowly in the methane fumes and carbon monoxide as their emergency one hour breathing devices gave out.

Although the Scotia mine is notorious for having among the highest levels of methane in the country, a substance so volatile it is used in jet fuel, the Commissioner of the Kentucky Bureau of Mines and Minerals, H. N. Kirkpatrick, okayed sending in a team of miners with a few government mine inspectors only three days after the blast to shore up the mine, so it could then be given a "full inspection" and reopened for production. While this team was in the mine, the methane gas blew again. This time eleven men died in the blast. Kirkpatrick's only explanation of why he had sent these men so quickly in the Scotia death trap was "Any time you go underground or get on the highway, it's dangerous."

He was right there. 155 miners died in accidents in 1975, up from 132 the two previous years, over three times the fatality rate in industry as a whole. The increase can be directly laid to the productivity drive of the coal bosses, who are mining every coal seam they can and to hell with safety, to take advantage of the demand for coal in the wake of the "energy crisis" of 1974. It was to aid the coal companies in this drive for profits that Kirkpatrick was in such a hurry to get the Scotia reopened.

The Federal Government's mine safety laws are a farce, especially compared with the stringent laws British, German and other European miners have won, which have kept the accident rates there far below that in the U.S. Even the United Mine Workers safety rules, which were not in effect at Scotia, are still insufficient, especially with the union bureaucracy cracking down on walkouts and miners losing paychecks for insisting safe conditions be established before they go to work.

For the capitalists, who would never permit themselves to be soiled by the coal dust of the mines they own, profit is king and miners are expendable. While we are told to celebrate them and their system, senseless tragedies like at the Scotia mine continue to rip the mask off their "benevolence" and "concern for fellow Americans." The capitalists' mad drive for profit causes hundreds of unnecessary deaths even in times of peace and in war millions die to protect the interests of the rich.

As of March 12, 49 miners had been killed already this year, murdered to fatten the capitalists.

"If blood be the price of your
cursed wealth
Then, Good God, we have paid
in full."

Coalition, RSB Hold Conferences

Movement for July 4 Demo Grows

Plans are rolling to organize the demonstration in Philly on July 4th. Since the Vietnam Veterans Against the War first issued a national call for the action many people have joined in to help build it, seeing the great potential this demo has for building a movement and striking a blow at the rich. Concrete steps are underway to begin to get the word of the demonstration out to large numbers of people and build that movement.

Nationally, the July 4th Coalition, consisting of VVAW, the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee, the Revolutionary Communist Party, United Workers Organization (NY-NJ) and the RSB, has been formed to coordinate build-up work and make arrangements for the four days of demonstrations in Philly. In mid-March the Coalition sponsored meetings in Philly and Cincinnati that brought together several hundred workers, employed and unemployed, veterans and youth to begin organizing for the demonstrations.

At the meetings, people spoke of the many different fights they had been part of--from a recent wildcat strike of coal miners to the 15-month old meatcutters strike in Milwaukee, to the fight against unemployment among young people. As each person spoke of their different battles, time and again they clearly laid blame for all these hardships on the shoulders of the capitalist rulers of this country. Throughout the conferences, one point stood out sharply--the great unity the people in this country have as we face common struggles against the rich thieves who ride our backs. One older worker talked about how the slogan for the July 4th demonstration, "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years, Let's Get Them Off Our Backs," hit at what people face every day under capitalism: "I've seen that the capitalist's always got one leg on your back. But as long as you're fighting, you're working towards the day when you'll finally get him off. The minute you stop fighting is the minute he'll start to get that other leg back on you."

People left the conference determined to bring the demo back into their plants, communities, unemployment centers and schools. Local coalitions have been formed in many cities to coordinate activities.

The RSB held regional conferences in February and March to bring together Brigade members and other interested students to make plan for spreading the word of the demonstration on the campuses. Here, the importance of this demonstration was discussed. For those who come to Philly it will have a profound effect. But, even for those who don't, the demonstration will be important as an example, a spark to seeing the strength we can build to take on the rich. Even more, as we take out the call to the demo, questions and controversy will come up over what kind of life this system offers us--do we have to continue living this way? how can we change it?

Since the conferences, the RSB has printed up T-shirts, posters, leaflets and a special four-page handout on the demonstration. Everywhere these have gone out on campuses, people have come up to ask questions, discuss and help organize the demonstration.

We are also putting on programs about the history of this country, using a slide show on 200 years of American history--which has been 200 years of fighting the rich against oppression and exploitation. On several campuses, committees have been formed to involve students wanting to help build for the 4th, drawing on their ideas for new ways to organize for it.

The Brigade is also planning to go out to many new campuses with the call to the demonstration. This has just begun to happen, but where it has already been done there has been an enthusiastic response. At one new *school in the Midwest, over 70 people* signed up within two days to hear more about the demo and plans are being made to rent a bus for the trip.

As more and more people have become involved in building for the demonstration, the excitement has grown because already in these events people from many different parts of the country are getting together, many for the first time, to share experiences in fighting the capitalists. This will be multiplied a thousand fold in Philly July 1-4. JOIN US!

Revolutionary Student Brigade
National Newspaper

FIGHT BACK!

What did Gov. Carey have to say when 10,000 students marched in Albany, New York? Why did the Chinese invite Nixon to China? What is socialism? What is the Angolan war all about?

These issues and more have been featured recently in *Fight Back*, the national newspaper of the Revolutionary Student Brigade. *Fight Back* serves to spread the sparks of rebellion and the lessons of each fight in order to build our strength and unity to bring this system down.

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CELEBRATE MAYDAY!

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY

May 1, 1886. General strike in the U.S.! For two years workers throughout America had planned and organized for this massive demonstration to demand the eight-hour day. Workers everywhere were jubilant as *190,000 walked off the job and 350,000 demonstrated. The action was a tremendous* success--for thousands the working day was reduced with no loss in pay.

Three years later, a meeting in Paris of socialist working class leaders from throughout Europe voted to expand the fight to an international general strike. Mayday, May 1st, was named the international workers' holiday. Every year on May 1st, in every country, working people and their allies have celebrated Mayday.

Mayday is the day the working class sums up the struggles of the past and lays its plans for the battles in the future. Mayday honors the fighters who have gone before, who fought and sacrificed to advance the struggle of the working class. On *every Mayday, the working class gathers its own ranks and its allies* and once more declares war against the enemy of all the people, the capitalist ruling class. And Mayday reaffirms the determination of working people to replace the rule of the capitalists with a new society, free from exploitation and oppression. This international holiday of the working class is an important day not only for the working class, but for people everywhere who want to fight this system we live under, the system of capitalism.

Mayday 1976

Coming at the end of a year of *growing struggle and deepening crisis, Mayday in 1976 will be observed by* more workers in more cities than it has been in this country for two decades.

Over the past year capitalism has become more exposed as the main obstacle between the people and our aspirations for a better world. Every day the capitalists attempt ever more boldly and desperately to shift the burden of their economic crisis onto the rest of us. Despite all the lies of recovery, many workers, and many other Americans face nothing short of a battle for survival.

Take jobs. Not only has unemployment been at the highest levels since the depression, but the capitalists are hailing this as the trend of the future. Already their experts have *redefined the "acceptable" level of unemployment from 3-4% up to 5-6%* and now some are suggesting that in the 1980s 10% may be the "acceptable" figure. Behind every percentage point they throw around in their rigged figures stands a million workers in need of jobs, most of them driven out of previous jobs as bosses drive to cut costs and jack up profits.

But with the growing oppression, the year '75-76 also saw a growing workers' movement against that oppression. Thousands of workers and thousands of people in all parts of society have been forced to fight for their basic needs. Municipal workers from New York to San Francisco have demonstrated and struck against massive firings and wage freezes. Last *August 80,000 coal miners struck for four weeks, fighting the courts, the* bosses' and sell-out leadership, to defend the right to strike.

Even more important than the militance and numbers of these struggles is the consciousness and organization that has grown among numbers of workers, seeing the need to go from the fight against one boss or employer to fighting the whole class of bosses. Based on the struggles in the shops and factories, workers' organizations like the May First Workers Movement in the S.F. Bay Area and the United Workers Organization in New York-Northern New Jersey have brought together workers from many industries to take up all the struggles against the capitalists.

A historic event has happened since last year's Mayday--the formation of the Revolutionary Communist Party. For twenty years the working class in this country has been without a vanguard party, a party that fights in the interests of the working class, a party that can unite and lead the struggle of the working class and its allies and that can point the way to the real goal of the struggle, revolution and socialism. The founding of the Revolutionary Communist Party, growing out of

Workers United Will Never Be Defeated
People's Voice
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REVOLUTIONARY
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The RCP, along with other organizations and individuals, is sponsoring Mayday celebrations around the country. Meetings to plan for these events, involving hundreds of workers, have been held in the past few weeks. In Milwaukee, for example, a dinner last month which kicked off work on Mayday was attended by over 200 people. These celebrations, while taking up the sharpest struggles in every area, will raise the following three slogans: *Fight, Don't Starve! Workers Unite to Lead the Fight Against All Oppression! Down with the System of Wage Slavery!*

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For the working class, the question of accepting the crisis doesn't even arise. The fight for jobs is just one battle among many. This slogan puts forward the fighting stand of the working class in the face of massive unemployment and against all attacks. And it is the stand that all people getting hit by this crisis must take.

Why should the people pay for a drop in the profits of the big corporations owned by men like Rockefeller and Kennedy? This is what we are being asked to do by giving up more of the health care, education and other needs that are being cut back.

We are told about "the common interest" but the majority of people have no common interest with the handful who run society for their own profit. We won't pay for their crisis. We say "Fight, Don't Starve!"

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This system we live under makes no sense. Everything is upside down. Every one of us has asked ourselves how, with all the technology and productive forces, enough to provide for all of humanity, we still are forced to live in the middle of chaos, war and poverty.

The situation in New York City is a good example of the future waiting just around the bend. The "save the city" plans for next year alone include dumping 40,000 more city workers and closing seven city hospitals. Open admissions at the City University of New York is being stopped and 40,000 students are being dropped from the rolls.

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The working class has that power. The largest class, their labor produces the vast bulk of society's wealth. Exploited by the capitalists, whose profit comes from stealing the wealth the workers produce, the working class is the class that has no interest in common with our rulers. Producing everything, they have no interests in continuing exploitation or oppression.

The slogan "Workers unite to lead the fight against all oppression" is at once a statement and a call to workers to take up the task of mobilizing the broadest sections of the people against all the attacks we face. The working class has the power to unite all the struggles of the people into one fist, one movement directed against the source of our attacks.

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Generation after generation, year after year, workers have to fight to make the bosses give back even the barest necessities from the great wealth they've stolen. And today, when the people need more than ever, factories are kept idle while millions who are able to work go unemployed.

Every day, the capitalists go further trying to squeeze more out of the working class. This exploitation is the heart, the foundation on which all the other abuses of capitalism are built and it is the main source of the great wealth of the Rockefellers, Kennedys and Duponts. Every day it is being stepped up with outright wage cuts, forced overtime, speedup, increased harassment and a million other gimmicks--all this in the name of "increasing productivity" *while the real aim is to increase* profits.

With a thousand attacks, the struggle of the workers is taking a thousand forms; the strike, the slowdown and petition drives are a few. Often facing sell-out union leaders and all the bosses' tools--the police, courts and governments--still the struggle grows, as in the recent start of a nationwide rank and file steelworkers newspaper.

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Oakland, California Mayday, 1975

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ON TO MAYDAY.

Mayday celebrated in the 1930s.

CELEBRATE INTE

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Albany...

United and strong, CUNY and SUNY students storm Statehouse steps.

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was just adopted by the Board of Higher Education would end Open Admissions (the policy where any high school grad can enter a city college, which was won by student struggle in 1969), close down four campuses and force thousands out of college.

Students Ready to Fight

The rally in Albany on the 16th was called by SUNY and CUNY student governments and the teachers' union. Their plan was to have everyone listen to speeches while a small delegation would go and meet with legislators to ask them to be "more reasonable".

The students, about 60% of whom were from CUNY schools, had had it with "being reasonable". For years our education along with other needs has been cut away piece by piece, while we're supposed to stand back and be polite.

The RSB, in organizing the CUNY Fight Back contingent for the rally, pointed out that it was useless to try and convince politicians to be more "reasonable" when it was the politicians, acting for the capitalists, who were pushing the cuts in the first place--knowing full well what they meant for students' lives. The Brigade summed up what many students are beginning to feel--that we are engaged in a real battle over these attacks, with the politicians representing a different class, the class of rich capitalists who run this country.

These cutbacks, like all the abuses we face, are not carried by everyone, but are attacks by one class of people on the rest of us. The only way to stop them is to take things into our own hands, to organize and to confront them with mass struggle.

At the rally over 2,000 students, marching with the CUNY Fight Back contingent, decided that they'd had enough with relying on politicians and student government misleaders. Chanting "We want Carey" (the governor) they pushed their way into the capitol and fought step by step up 200 stairs against State, Capitol and Albany police to outside the doors where the legislature was meeting.

At a giant meeting, the students voted up three demands: No cutbacks, release a person who had been arrested, and a meeting with the governor. Police began moving around the edges of the crowd, pulling people away and threatening them with arrest. The meeting voted unanimously that the cops should be expelled from the area the students held. The police were asked if they wanted to leave or would they have to be removed. They left quickly.

After occupying the halls of the Statehouse for several hours, the students voted to leave. They had stood up to the threats of force of the police and the tricks of the student government, and were ready to keep fighting. But the overwhelming feeling was that the spirit and unity had to be brought back to the campuses where the real strength of the movement was--the thousands who had not come to Albany.

Returning to SUNY colleges across the state, that same night students made plans and launched a series of actions. By the end of the week there were building takeovers at seven campuses including Fredonia, Oswego, Old Westbury, New Paltz and Purchase plus demonstrations or strikes at several others. These strikes and takeovers have built the movement even stronger. As a result, at some schools like Buffalo State, the presidents are searching for "special endowment funds" to prevent faculty firings. And the SUNY Board of Trustees have been forced to call an open hearing on the cuts--April 28 at the Albany State University campus.

The reaction of the legislators and some student government leaders to the Albany demo and following actions was one of fear and hatred. One legislator's response was "I think most of us didn't cut enough." This is the kind of person we're supposed to reason with. The people are like dirt to them, to be kept from getting "out of hand" while they step all over us.

Organize to Break Through!

In New York City, where students on 19 CUNY campuses have been fighting attacks all year, the Albany demo and the recent announcement of the Kibbee plan have sparked off more militant struggle. On April 6, 1500 students, mainly from Bronx Community College and Medgar Evers, demonstrated in front of the Board of Higher Education, battling with police and marching through a BHE annex.

Hostos Community College in the Bronx, the only bilingual college in CUNY and one that's slated to be closed, has been occupied by students for over three weeks. As we go to press, the students are still standing firm in the face of court injunctions and threatened police attacks and support for the Hostos students is spreading throughout the city.

At Lehman College, also in the Bronx, two buildings were seized by students protesting the cuts. At Queens College 1,000 students rallied and marched. They were only prevented from taking over a building by the student government, which locked them out of the administration building.

These actions, like dozens over the past year, show only a fraction of the power of the 180,000 students at CUNY. What stands out sharply as the next step students must take at CUNY and at SUNY also, is to put it all together, to get organized and prepare to shut all the campuses down, either this term or next fall.

One roadblock to CUNY students pulling it together has been the leadership of the University Student Senate, the CUNY student government. These flunkies for the Board of Higher Education and Albany treat the student body like sheep, to be herded from demonstration to demonstration, while they have their private conferences upstairs with the politicians and administrations. They lined the steps in Albany, punching students trying to march into the building. All along they've assumed that students would chant "They say cutback--

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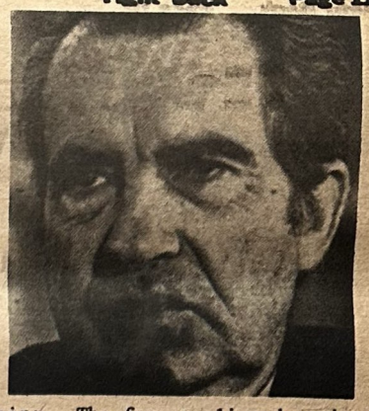
Rally at University of Buffalo following Albany demonstration.

"The Final Days"

Nixon Takes Rap for Whole Ruling Class



"THE FINAL DAYS"--HOFFMAN AND REDFORD TO STAR IN MOVIE. Watergate is big news again and everyone in the media has a different rap on what the whole thing was about.

It all centers around Nixon, especially this new book *The Final Days* by Woodward and Bernstein, the two reporters who broke a lot of the exposures in the *Washington Post*. From rumors that Nixon was a homosexual to descriptions of him walking the White House halls at night, talking to paintings of former presidents, it's not hard to be convinced that he was the biggest jerk that ever lived in Washington.

While there's been some fuss about whether or not all these things are true, most of us are perfectly willing to believe them. We've got plenty of reasons to hate Nixon, for carrying on the war in Indochina, for his wage price freeze, for his secret deals with the milk industry and ITT, the list could go on for days. What's hard to swallow is that Nixon was any different than all the other politicians in Washington.

Nightmare or Education?

After Nixon's resignation in '74, Ted Kennedy declared, "The nightmare of Watergate is over." But for millions of Americans nightmare was the wrong word: education was a lot more like it. It was a nightmare only for the politicians and their capitalist backers as the way this system works got more and more exposed. We saw former Attorney General John "Law and Order" Mitchell indicted for obstructing justice, Vice President Agnew caught taking bribes and learned that Kennedy and Johnson had both done their share of "dirty tricks" like wire taps on Martin Luther King.

What Watergate showed was not how "unique" Nixon was--but how corrupt the whole system of so-called "democracy" is. We sat through twelve months of endless proceedures as Congress looked for "evidence" while the whole country knew he was guilty. And then when Nixon finally resigned one of the first things Ford did was pardon him and appoint Rocky Vice President.

With Nixon allowed to go free and one of the biggest capitalists in the world as Vice President we were supposed to believe the slate was wiped clean. But more Americans than ever could see that we lived in no democracy but a government of the rich, for the rich. It's the loss of faith in the system that's the real nightmare for the politicians.

The image of Nixon as a lone alcoholic weirdo is being dredged up in a clumsy attempt to pass off the whole Watergate affair as the result of one maniac getting into the White House. But how the hell did he get into office in the first place? Only with the backing of the corporations and bankers that finance all political campaigns.

It was no accident that Nixon got into office--he was bought and paid for so he could serve the interests of his backers, like Kennedy and Johnson before him, and Ford today.

Ruling Class In-Fighting

The other side of the picture being painted is that of Woodward and Bernstein as kind of modern folk heros responsible for uncovering the whole Watergate affair. We're supposed to believe that Nixon got "caught" accidentally and was punished by the "honest" politicians in Washington.

What bull! The press in this country is regularly used to suppress news, as they did for years with facts about the war in Vietnam. Even Woodward and Bernstein readily admit that they couldn't have investigated anything without the hundreds of anonymous tips and leads they had from people who knew the inner workings of the government. And the recent exposures, with all their intimate details and which Woodward and Bernstein claim to have proof of, had to have been leaked by people pretty high up.

The Watergate exposures were a pretty high level example of what happens every election time--politicians digging up dirt on each other and using their connections to "leak it" or getting up and slinging some mud themselves. For while all the ruling class agrees that the system of their rule over the rest of us must continue, their competition for profits and power leads to constant back-stabbing, in-fighting and realignment among themselves.

Ted Kennedy, still dripping from his swin at Chappaquidick, can get over in politics only because his "cover-up" worked. He had the power and organization to suppress the story and keep it from becoming too damaging. The forces aligned against Nixon were powerful enough to cut him down.

But while the ruling class likes to think of itself as "all-powerful" they are far from it. Certain forces among them may have started the thing going, but soon Watergate went way beyond their control. This had nothing to do with the so-called "forces of justice" (the courts and police which they control) but was because of the tremendous anger the people of this country had about the whole affair.

The rich sit above us, but it's not a very stable position--more like a man on stilts trying to juggle six things at once while someone's kicking at his legs. When they're driven by their individual needs to attack each other at election time or during a Watergate, they can't help but expose more of their system, damaging the position of their whole class.

This is exactly what happened during Watergate. The more that came out, the more people demanded that Nixon be thrown out. Thousands demonstrated around the country, with communists and revolutionaries raising the slogan Throw the Bum Out--Organize to Fight, and using Watergate to expose the whole ruling class and build the movement against them. Added to years of U.S. aggression in Indochina, the energy freeze and the economic crisis that was getting rolling in 1974, faith in politicians and the system sank down to abou zero.

System In Trouble

Now, two years later, the ruling class is still feeling the effects of Watergate and is desperately trying to explain it in the way that is least damaging to them. This is an election year and despite all the fertilizer the capitalists shovel, their candidates aren't taking root

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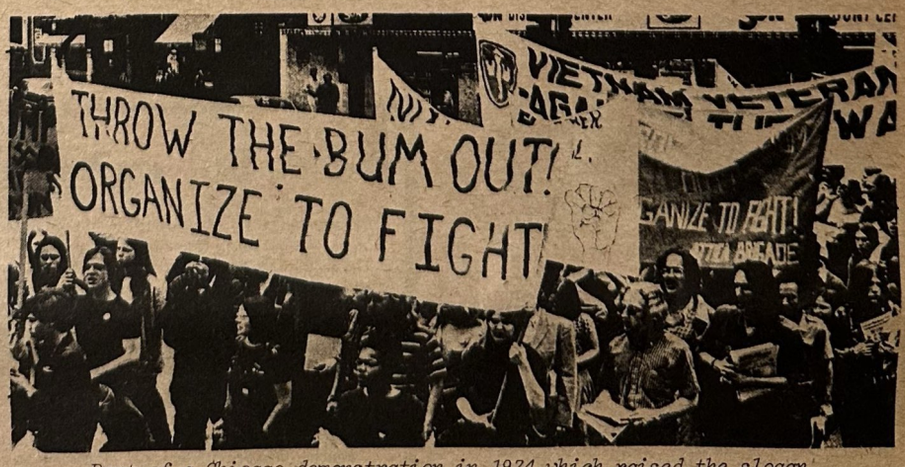

Part of a Chicago demonstration in 1974 which raised the slogan Throw the Bum Out--Organize to Fight!

Nixon...

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like they used to. Voter registration is down, and there's widespread understanding that none of the candidates offer any solutions for the people. By focusing our attention on a hated character like Nixon, the rest of the ruling class hopes they will look good by comparison.

There's one scene in the book *The Final Days* that shows Nixon the day before he was forced to resign. He is described as kneeling on the floor in his office, crying and pounding the carpet asking himself "Where did I go wrong?" Whether this actually happened or not, we certainly have no pity for Richard Nixon, who engineered the deaths of Black Panthers Fred Hampton and Mark Clark and played a big role in killing thousands of Vietnamese and Americans, among his other crimes.

Behind Nixon was a whole class of people, Rocky, Kissinger, Kennedy, who also share the responsibility for those crimes and dozens of others against the people of the U.S. and the world. From the dead miners in Scotia, Kentucky, to the people of Indochina, the blood of millions is on their hands.

The final days of Richard Nixon were great to witness as one of the high and mighty got pulled down. But we won't be satisfied with that. We know that Nixon was only one of the maniacs who run this country. We can't and won't be content until we've brought them all to their knees.

Albany...

continued from page 10

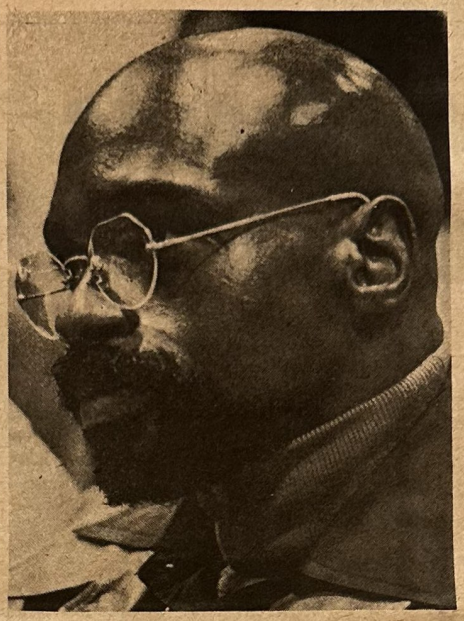
We say fightback!" and not do anything.

While these "leaders" talk a lot about closing the campuses, and they have the apparatus to do it, so far they've refused to coordinate any kind of city-wide action. Relying on these creeps, like relying on the politicians, is suicide. This is the growing understanding of many students.

"We Have the Power"

"We have the power!" was the chant that rang out in the Statehouse on March 16. It was the spirit that was brought back to the campuses across the state. Self-appointed "saviours" are always presenting themselves to us saying "vote for me, I'll set you free." But for the thousands in Albany and thousands of others who heard or read about it, it was clear that real power comes from getting the people organized and united.

The struggle is building in New York City and the rest of the state with SUNY students mobilizing for a demonstration at the April 28th Trustees meeting. Albany was a big step forward and a real spark to the movement. Now the job for CUNY and SUNY students is to spread the Albany spirit, bring all the struggles together to act as one, and build the organization and unity needed to break through and win.



Carter and Artis Freed On Bail

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and John Artis are free after nine years in jail for a crime they didn't commit. The Supreme Court of New Jersey let them out on bail, but they will face another trial.

Carter, a former boxer, was top contender for the middle-weight crown when he was jailed. In the mid-sixties he spoke out strongly in opposition to police repression during the time of the Black rebellions. Shortly afterwards he and Artis were arrested and found guilty of the murder of three white people in Patterson, New Jersey. Later the government's two key witnesses to the crime both reversed their testimony, admitting they were involved in a holdup at the time of the murders and that the prosecutor had promised to send them to prison for life unless they testified against Carter and Artis in court.

This frame-up sparked the anger of people all over. Coming as part of the ruling class' attempt to crush the Black rebellions, it was another naked case of police repression aimed at stopping the struggles of Black people.

A movement to free Carter and Artis grew up, centered among the people in the New Jersey area, especially Black people in Newark and workers, Black and white, in the factories in the area. This movement also brought many other forces into the fight, like Muhammad Ali, Bob Dylan and some movie stars and politicians, some of whom joined the struggle for their own purposes. This movement forced some of the same people who framed Carter and Artis nine years ago to start looking for a way to back down gracefully.

Thousands joined the fight to free Carter but their strength was scattered and loosely knit. The capitalists and their political front men have tried to take advantage of this to jump in and put the brakes on. For example, they have flooded the papers with news stories about the eye witnesses changing their stories back and forth in a new attempt to confuse people and say that maybe Carter and Artis did commit the murder after all. They are bending over backwards to say the new trial for Cater and Artis shows how the courts and whole justice system works--just give it time to sort things out.

But this is ridiculous. It has taken 9 1/2 years for these two men to get out of jail and every step of the way it was only the growing outrage of thousands of people that forced the change of events.

Even now the courts have warned Carter not to talk about his case to discourage him from having anything to do with the movement that freed him. And they're telling the people of New Jersey to give them more time and let another trial work things out. But it was the system of "justice" that condemned innocent men to life sentences. No new trial alone will insure freedom for Carter and Artis. It was the anger of the people, the marches, demonstrations and actions that got Carter and Artis out of jail and it is only the sentiment and organized action of the people that will insure their freedom.

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Revolution **is the organ of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA (RCP). The RCP is the Party of the U.S. working class, and its formation is a product of the struggle of the working class and represents a great victory and advance for that struggle. *Revolution* belongs to the working class and its Party, and exists to further the class' revolutionary struggle. It is published on the 15th of every month.**

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Jobs Convoys Roll Through Ohio and New Jersey

Unemployed Workers Organize

Unemployed workers from all over Ohio poured into Columbus Feb. 27 demanding jobs and an end to cuts in unemployment benefits.

Job Convoys rolled through Ohio and New Jersey in March uniting hundreds of employed and unemployed workers around the demands for Jobs or Income Now! No cuts in unemployment extensions! Stop the plant closings! We want jobs!

In the face of all the lies about "economic recovery" and promises to "put America back to work" the fact is that millions of people are jobless and more plants are closing every month. And all this phoney talk is being used to try to blame the unemployed for being out of work and cover up for massive cuts in unemployment benefits.

These two demonstrations sponsored by the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) and in New Jersey co-sponsored by the New York-Northern New Jersey United Workers Organization (UWO), were important steps in building a movement among the unemployed and among all workers against the lack of jobs and cuts in benefits.

In Ohio more than 200 unemployed workers converged on the capital, Columbus, on Friday, Feb. 27 from Dayton, Cincinnati, Cleveland and other cities to demand jobs and an end to the government's plan to cut out 26 weeks of unemployment benefits. This campaign has been building since January when the Federal government announced that benefits in Ohio and 19 other states would be cut from 65 to 39 weeks because the states had juggled their statistics to show only 5% unemployment. In Ohio alone 65,000 people on second and third extensions will be cut off without a cent on April 3.

Thousands of employed and unemployed workers have come forward to build the struggle, signing UWOC Jobs or Income petitions, coming to meetings and demonstrations, passing out leaflets to friends and fellow workers. A large percentage of the people who joined the Jobs Convoy to Columbus came off leaflets passes out by UWOC at unemployment offices around the state.

Big Support

This was the largest and most militant demonstration of unemployed workers in Ohio in many years. The active support given by hundreds of employed workers was a very important part of the demonstration. Donations to pay for busses and gas to Columbus, including $80 from workers at Alcoa in Cleveland, and letters of support came from workers all over the state.

In Columbus itself the demonstrators were cheered on by scores of workers and shoppers as they marched from the state unemployment bureau to the governor's office in the state building.

When the workers arrived at the state house they found all the doors locked and they were attacked by the state police called out to "guard" the building. The governor had earlier tried to impose a $1000 fee for a march permit.

For the majority of people in the convoy this was their first demonstration and they were righteously angry at all the efforts to turn away their just demands. "You've been pushing us around all our lives," one woman shouted, and the unemployed stood their ground.

On the busses and cars going home people felt that they had really "made their point" and plans were set for further demonstrations against the extension cuts in several cities on March 27.

New Jersey Jobs Convoy

The "Fight for Jobs" Convoy that moved through northern New Jersey on March 6 was aimed mainly at the wave of plant shutdowns that are throwing thousands out into the streets. UWOC and the UWO passed out over 20,000 leaflets to build for the convoy and got an enthusiastic reception from workers in city after city. "It's about time we did something about this" was the common sentiment. A number of workers joined the convoy just off the leaflets. Sixty cars started from Newark and Perth Amboy, driving through several cities to Linden, New Jersey for a rally. All along the route the convoy was hailed by people who had been alerted by leaflets that the demonstration was coming.

Plant after plant has been clearing out of New Jersey for years. GE in Newark is gone, Western Electric has laid off thousands and rumors of a closing continue. Whole towns have been wrecked--workers with 30 years in the plant left with no chance of finding work and high school students with no jobs in front of them. "We want jobs," that's what workers are saying--we don't have to live like this.

The recent rash of plant closings and shops that have runaway to foreign countries is a major attack, but UWOC plans to throw it back at the capitalists and use it as a launching pad to spread the fight throughout the whole working class. The campaign is being taken out broadly among all working people in every industry, in the unemployment centers, communities and union halls. Further plans include plant gate rallies and public meetings in the towns hard hit by the closings.

A speaker at the New Jersey rally said it best in taking on all this phoney recovery talk: "There's only one thing getting better, that's our ability to fight."

Workers march to state unemployment office in Columbus.

Protest Zionist Rule...

continued from page 4

ded eventually "integrating" the Palestinians there--some of them, anyway--into Israeli society on the same basis as the 500,000 Palestinians who live inside the pre-1967 boundaries of Israel. These Arabs are supposedly "full citizens" of Israel, but their position is startlingly different from Jewish citizens.

A majority are workers, many exploited side by side with Jewish workers. Palestinians, however, suffer significantly higher unemployment than the national average, and are kept as a pool of low-paid labor for the hardest and most marginal jobs in the economy. Identity cards for Palestinians are specially marked for easy identification, Nazi style. Arab political parties are not permitted, so many join the Rakah, the revisionist Communist Party, as the only legal way to engage in political activity, since by definition non-Jews have no place in a Zionist party based on belief in a Jewish state. These "full citizens" are also barred from the Israeli army and not allowed to own weapons.

The Israeli government of course does not believe its own propaganda about the "equality and good life" enjoyed by its Arab (the name Palestinian is never used) "citizens." After three decades of Zionist occupation and expulsion by terror only 15% of Israel's population is Palestinian (excluding territories occupied in 1967). But they are recognized as a major threat to continued Zionist rule, and this threat is dealt with harshly. In the region of Galilee, the Palestinian population had slowly increased from 42% to a majority since 1948. The government decided to put a stop to this development and "Judaize" Galilee. They passed a law seizing thousands of acres from area landowners for the establishment of Jewish farming communities which also serve as military outposts.

Land Seizures Spark Resistance

It was this policy that was the original focus of the demonstrations which broke out in Galilean towns the last week of March and became a general strike on March 30. Like the West Bank protests, these too soon became broader protests against Israel and Zionist rule. The demonstrators shouted slogans of solidarity with the West Bank demonstrations. They took up the chant "Revolution Until Victory." This slogan put forward the national struggle of the Palestinians, who have fought for decades inside Israel and out for a unified democratic secular (non-religious) Palestine free of imperialist domination, a country where Jews, Moslems and Christians alike can struggle together to build the future.

Panicked by this unexpected revolutionary upsurge, the Israeli government responded with vicious repression, repression which the masses met head on. Dozens of demonstrators were wounded and six were killed when soldiers and police opened up on protesting crowds during the general strike. Militant young Palestinians who were running for office in Galilean towns were deported, further exposing the sham nature of Israeli democracy. The demonstrations ended, at least for the moment.

Funeral for Palestinian killed during protests against Zionist rule. While supposedly full citizens, Palestinians will never gain real equality in a Zionist Israel.

Struggle Exposes Israeli Myth

The recent explosions of mass struggle have gone a long way in destroying the myth, promoted by the Zionist leaders and the U.S. imperialists, that Israel is a haven of justice and progress. The storm of struggle highlighted the criminal history of Israel's rulers, pirates who drove millions of Palestinians from their homes and lured millions of Jews to the stolen land, all so they could have their own country to rule and their own working class to exploit.

The demonstrations focussed world attention on the current problems these capitalists have in holding onto their ill-gotten gains. 40% of Israel's budget goes directly to military expenditures and another 20% to pay off debts mainly incurred in previous aggressive wars. To finance this, attacks on Israel's workers, like the current wage freeze, have been escalating and increasingly are met with resistance despite "we're all in this together" appeals to the Jewish workers.

For Israel's rulers, the implications of the mass outbreaks for the future are even more frightening. During both the 1967 "Six-Day" War and the 1973 "Yom Kippur" War, the Palestinians in Israel were relatively inactive. This new upsurge holds the threat that, next time war breaks out, they will be a powerful force striking at Israeli aggression from within.

What the U.S. Ruling Class Is Up To

For the U.S. ruling class, the demonstrations were both an embarassment and a spur to keep its present Middle East policy of so-called "even-handedness"--meaning fishing everywhere in troubled waters to enrich itself. Until the 1973 War, the U.S. government was in the position of backing Israel against the increasingly powerful and oil-rich Arab nations. The U.S. was able to break out of this bind after some Arab countries like Egypt found that their "ally," the Soviet Union, had betrayed them by refusing to honor its commitments to provide supplies during that war. This gave the U.S. the opportunity to defend its interests, key among them the preservation of Israel as an imperialist base, in the guise of a powerful, neutral peacemaker in the Mideast, and to ice the New Tsars of the Soviet Union out of the action there.

The U.S. in March was faced on the one hand with the Palestinian struggle in the West Bank, and on the other with the need to reward Egypt's President Sadat, who broke his biggest remaining tie with the New Tsars by renouncing the 1971 Soviet/Egyptian Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. Part of the payoff was setting up a massive arms deal with Britain, but a political concession was needed too. The result was that U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. William Scranton was forced to state publicly that United States policy is that Israel must return all the territory it seized in the 1967 war, including Jerusalem. This represents a tactical move by the U.S. to make the best of a big defeat--in essence, it concedes that the Palestinian struggle has erected a firm roadblock to the Zionist rulers' dreams of expansion.

The rulers of the Soviet Union, who have by no means given up pursuing their exploitative interests in the Mideast, despite setbacks caused by the exposure of their treachery and by successful U.S. maneuvering, have not been able to turn the recent struggle to their advantage to any great extent.

But for all that both superpowers want to save Israel to advance their own interests in the Middle East, the March demonstrations on the West Bank and in Israel point out more clearly than ever that Zionist rule is rotten to the core and bound to fall.

LETTERS TO FIGHT BACK!

Fight Back: P.O. Box A3423
Chicago, Ill. 60690

Hi,

I'm a student at Boston State College and I got your newspaper from the RSB at our school. I would like to know more about the July 4 demonstration, also more about your organization.

I know that our system of government stinks but so do all the others in the world, not only should there be a revolution in the U.S. but also the entire world. This whole planet is pretty screwed up. What do you want to put in place of capitalism, communism? In theory they are different--in practice they are the same, just look at Russia.

You want to help the working class but what are you going to do for them? I know I wouldn't want to work in a factory. I'm from a working class family, both my father and his worked on the railroad.

Sincerely,

H.H.
Boston State

Dear H.,

We're sending you a copy of the latest issue of our paper, which has a special supplement about the July 4 demonstration. We hope it answers some of your questions about the RSB.

A lot of people feel the way you do about the system in this country and the need for a revolution not just here but around the world. From what we can see around us, things *are* pretty screwed up--everything is upside down, with the great wealth of the country being used by a small handful of rich bastards.

We think that capitalism *can* be replaced by a better system, socialism, and eventually we can have a world without classes--communism. It's true that today the Soviet Union is just like the U.S.--a capitalist country where the people have no freedom. This was not always true. For forty years, starting in 1917, the working class ruled the Soviet Union and was building a socialist society. But even after a revolution, the fight goes on to keep the old rulers from coming back to power. In the Soviet Union, the working people have temporarily lost that fight and starting in the late 1950s with Khrushchev, a new class of capitalists rose up to rule the Russian people.

There are countries in the world today where the theory and the practice of communism is the same. The People's Republic of China is the main socialist country today. In the U.S. working in a factory is a form of slavery, people work their whole lives to make someone else rich and after 30 years get tossed aside like garbage. In a socialist country the workers run the factories and the whole country. In China there are committees in each factory elected by the workers that run everything. Not only are conditions better, but the people don't mind working because they know that what they make will be used to help all the people, not just a few capitalists.

We know you probably have a lot more questions. It's not easy to figure this stuff out with all the lies we're taught and the way the media distorts everything. We hope you decide to subscribe to *Fight Back* which every month has articles on these and other topics.

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Phil Ochs 1941-1976

"I've got something to say, sir and I'm gonna say it now."

April 10, 1976, Phil Ochs, songwriter and performer, commited suicide at the age of 35. It was said by his friends that he felt "I can't find the words anymore."

Phil Ochs was well known in the mid-60s as a "protest" songwriter. He was part of the anti-war movement which involved thousands of young people in this country. His songs like "I ain't 'a marching anymore" and "Draft Dodger's Rag" were memorized and sung by people across the country and they were powerful expressions of the anger people felt about the war, the oppression of Black people and other injustices, as well as against the whole system of capitalism.

Because he was part of and based himself on the mass movement then growing in the country, Ochs was able to make real contributions with his talents. He was respected for his strong political stands--supporting the Vietnamese, opposing anti-communism (though not a communist himself)--and for his sharp sarcastic parodies like "Love me, I'm a Liberal," an attack on phony liberal politicians.

The mass movement he was based on, which was in turn based mainly among students and young people, was for a while a powerful force that spread revolutionary ideas among broad numbers of people. But that movement ran into a stumbling block as it became clear that by themselves students and young people could not make or lead a revolution in this country. Many people, including Ochs, became disillusioned, seeing no way to make the revolution needed to rid society of exploitation and oppression. He moved away from the fight he had once helped to build, experimenting with different kinds of music, and trying to set up a "career" for himself.

Out of that same movement of the late 60s and early 70s many other people came to see a way forward, a force in society that could lead and make revolution--the working class. Building on the strengths of the old movement, they went on to join the working class, forming communist organizations and starting to build a new movement that included all the old forces but was based on the class that could carry the struggle through to the end. Ochs, while often singing of the suffering and exploitation the working class faces, didn't go on to see its great revolutionary potential.

When Phil Ochs lost touch with the movement and fight against oppression, he lost touch with the original purpose of his music. He was pushed by forces in the system to build a career as an individual, to cut himself off from the people. His art, instead of being a weapon in the hands of the people, became only a way to make money.

When his songs were helping to express the feelings and ideas of thousands, Phil Ochs was never at a loss for words. When the people lost his voice to demoralization and the pressures of the system, we lost a powerful weapon.

Revolutionary Student Brigade
National Newspaper
FIGHT BACK!
April 15, 1976

Austin, Texas

Demonstrate Against Ford April 27th

Gerald Ford has received an invitation from the University of Texas to be the keynote speaker at the International Ex-Students Conference on Energy, to be held at U.T. April 26-30. The RSB in Austin is preparing a welcome for him by calling for a demonstration around the slogans, "Jobs for Youth and the Unemployed," and "We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War!"

University President Lorene Rogers, who extended the personal invitation to Ford, is a member of the Board of Directors of Texaco and Shell Oil. Last summer she was chosen as president over the protests and demonstrations of thousands of students who saw that she was picked not because of any academic qualifications but because she would make sure the "public" education served the wishes of the bankers, oil men, ranchers and industrialists who control the Texas university system. Since then she has earned the hatred of students and faculty by instituting a policy of selective raises to intimidate those faculty who speak out against the wealth she represents. No wonder the university has produced "more petroleum engineers than any other institution in the world."

This "energy conference" is a get-together for representatives of the ruling class in various countries to discuss the dividing up of the world's natural resources; besides Jerry, Lorene and the international alumni, the heads of a few multi-national corporations, some sheiks, and high-level U.S. government officials will be there. They will "choose ways to resolve" the energy issue "that transcend national boundaries and consider the future of the world as a whole, as well as the future of individual political entities."

The U.S. oil corporations are always interested in "transcending national boundaries," especially since the oil-exporting countries began to stand up and resist big-power exploitation of their resources. This has got nothing to do with concern for the future of the world, but is only part of the never-ending search for higher profits the monopolies go through. Their talk of peaceful co-operation on energy resources looks pretty thin when we see them organize for war, manipulate the situation in the Mideast with secret deals and arms shipments, and in other ways "transcend national boundaries."

When the fighting starts, these fatcats are always well behind the lines while the rest of us, especially young people, are sent off to die--and for what? To protect the investments and profits of the rich, the same class of people that is making a mess out of the country here at home, cutting back on education, and creating massive unemployment.

The demonstration on the 27th is one way people are saying No! to Ford, Rogers and the whole system. And from the demo in Austin, the RSB will be bringing many people to the national demonstration July 4th in Philadelphia, where people from around the country will be uniting to fight back. Demonstrate Austin April 27th, come to Philly July 1-4!

Part of a demonstration of 8,000 Austin students last year demanding resignation of school president Lorene Rogers.

Boston University

Throw Silber Out! Stop the Cuts!

On April 7, one thousand students at Boston University (BU) turned out to demonstrate against cuts in the College of Liberal Arts. Earlier that day, John Silber, president of the university, had addressed a faculty meeting where the 20-30% budget cut was announced. This would mean cutting back on courses and reducing staff, which comes on top of the $300 tuition hikes that have hit the school each fall for the last six years.

Students, as well as some faculty, have had enough and began organizing against the attacks. Much of the anger has focused on Silber who credits himself as the architect of the cutback plans. People identify him with the cuts as well as other plans--to smash the faculty union and manipulate funds out of the student union and into administration hands. He's done much to win their hatred and students want him out.

The demonstration on the 7th showed that hatred and more. The RSB united with people at the protest, raising two main demands--Throw the Bum Out and Fight the Cuts. These are the main demands because although right now students want to kick Silber out the thrust of the fight is against cutbacks and attacks on our education. If it wasn't Silber, the Board of Trustees would put some other arrogant bum in his place to do the dirty work of their cutbacks. But, by organizing to get Silber to resign, students are both gathering their strength in the fight and putting the Board of Trustees and any successor they hire for Silber's post on notice--this is what students feel about your plans!

Celebrate Mayday!

(See Centerfold)